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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Dr. Mark E. Harris, First Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we enter Your presence today on behalf of our Nation, our leaders and ourselves. We come, not by our own worthiness, but by Your glorious invitation to "come unto Me all who are weary, and I will give you rest."

Please grant us wisdom today, for we need divine wisdom to fulfill the purposes You have for us. We need Your guidance to be able to heal the brokenhearted. We need Your strength to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind. We need Your power to free the oppressed.

So, I ask, Lord, that You would speak to the Nation, and that, indeed, we would all have ears to hear, eyes to see, hearts and minds ready to receive Your word.

God bless this House of Representatives, and may their minds be of Your mind. I ask this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COHEN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND DR.
MARK E. HARRIS

(Mrs. MYRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, it's truly my honor to welcome Dr. Mark Harris of Charlotte, North Carolina, to the House of Representatives. He is a dynamic and a true leader in our city, and a graduate of Appalachian State University and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is currently the senior pastor at First Baptist Church in Charlotte.

He is joined in his ministry by his wife, Beth, and their children, Laura, John and Matthew. Under his leadership, the church has become one of the fastest growing Baptist churches in our area.

He is very straightforward and powerful in his preaching, and he is always challenging his parishioners to rediscover the joy of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I thank him for being here today.

IRAQ TIMETABLE AND FUNDING, CONGRESS NEEDS TO PASS CONFERENCE REPORT

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, nine more soldiers are dead, and our soldiers can claim victory in Iraq. Madam Speaker, even after losing thousands of American lives and spending billions of taxpayer dollars, the Bush administration continues to demand an open-ended commitment of American troops in Iraq with no exit plan and no strategy.

But this Democratic Congress, the leadership of Speaker PELOSI, understands the responsibility of war. We understand the commitment to the American people, and, yes, we under-

stand the needs of national security. Retired military officers support our plan and the new direction for Iraq to begin to redeploy our troops to begin to bring them home.

Secretary Gates has gone to Iraq trying to stop the bleeding, but he believes that congressional debate is helpful, and he has said that the clock is ticking. Can the Bush administration understand that? The Pentagon has confirmed, through a Congressional Research Service report, that the President's comments about us stopping funding, the Congress stopping funding, is absolutely wrong.

We need to save lives. We need to restore the confidence and the leadership in Iraq, but we need to claim victory for our soldiers. They have done their job. It's time to bring them home now.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Natural Resources and as a member of the Committee on Financial Services:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
April 24, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House, Office of the Speaker,
U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAME SPEAKER: It is my desire to resign from the House Committee on Natural Resources immediately. I look forward to returning to the committee soon.

Thank you.
Sincerely,

RICK RENZI,
U.S. Congressman,
First District of Arizona.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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